

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A guidewire comprising:

an elongated inner core member including a proximal section and a distal section, the distal section including a proximal portion and a distal portion;

an elongated reinforcing member having a proximal end and a distal end and an inner surface extending between the proximal and the distal end, the elongated reinforcing member disposed in a fixed position about the proximal portion of the distal section of the core member such that the distal portion of the distal section of the core member is free of the reinforcing member and such that the inner surface of the elongated reinforcing member is in contact with the proximal portion of the core member ~~[[long]]~~ along the entire length of the reinforcing member from the proximal end to the distal end of the reinforcing member; and

an outer coil member having a proximal end and a distal end, the outer coil member disposed about the distal section of the core member, there being no intervening layer of material between the distal portion of the distal section of the inner core member and the outer coil member; and

the outer coil member located exterior of the elongated reinforcing member such that there exists an unoccupied space between the entire perimeter of the elongated reinforcing member and the outer coil member;

wherein the proximal end of the outer coil member is located proximal of the proximal end of the elongated reinforcing member.

2. (original) The guidewire of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing member comprises a nickel-titanium alloy.

3. (original) The guidewire of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing member comprises a nickel-titanium alloy tube having at least one cut or groove defined therein.

4. (original) The guidewire of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing member comprises a nickel-titanium alloy tube having at least one helical cut or groove defined along a length of the reinforcing member.

5. (original) The guidewire of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing member comprises a nickel-titanium alloy coil.

6. (original) The guidewire of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing member comprises at least one nickel-titanium wire helically wrapped about the proximal portion of the distal section.

7. (original) The guidewire of claim 6, wherein the reinforcing member comprises at least a second nickel-titanium wire helically wrapped about the proximal portion of the distal section in an opposing direction.

8. (original) The guidewire of claim 1, wherein the distal portion of the distal section of the core member has a non-circular cross-section.

9. (original) The guidewire of claim 1, wherein the core member comprises stainless steel.

10. (cancelled)

11. (previously presented) The guidewire of claim 1, wherein the outer coil member comprises stainless steel.

12. (cancelled)

13. (previously presented) A guidewire comprising:
an elongated inner core member, the core member having a proximal region and a distal

region with at least a portion of the distal region including stainless steel, the distal region having a proximal section and a distal section;

an elongated tubular reinforcing member including a nickel-titanium alloy disposed in a fixed position about the inner core member, the reinforcing member having a proximal end and a distal end and a length extending from the proximal end to the distal end, wherein the distal end terminates proximal of the distal section of the distal region of the core member and wherein the reinforcing member contacts the core member along the entire length of the reinforcing member;

wherein the reinforcing member comprises a tube having at least one cut or groove defined therein; and

an outer coil member having a proximal end and a distal end, the outer coil member disposed over the distal section of the core member and at least a portion of the reinforcing member; and

the outer coil member located exterior of the elongated reinforcing member such that there exists an unoccupied space between the entire perimeter of the elongated reinforcing member and the outer coil member;

wherein the proximal end of the outer coil member is located proximal of the proximal end of the reinforcing member.

14. (original) The guidewire of claim 13, wherein the distal region of the core member is stainless steel.

15. (original) The guidewire of claim 13, wherein the proximal region of the core member has a diameter and the outer member has an outside diameter substantially equal to the diameter of the proximal region of the core member.

16. (previously presented) The guidewire of claim 13, wherein the outer coil member comprises stainless steel.

17-18. (cancelled)

19. (previously presented) The guidewire of claim 13, wherein the at least one cut or groove is a helical cut or groove defined along the length of the reinforcing member.

20-21. (cancelled)

22. (previously presented) A guidewire comprising:

an elongated inner core member including stainless steel, the inner core member including a proximal portion having a first cross-sectional area, an intermediate portion having a second cross-sectional area, wherein the second cross-sectional area is less than the first cross-sectional area, and a distal portion having a ribbon profile;

an elongated tubular member including a nickel-titanium alloy, the tubular member having a proximal end and a distal end and a length extending from the proximal end to the distal end, the tubular member being disposed in a fixed position about the intermediate portion of the inner core member and in contact with the intermediate portion along the entire length of the tubular member;

wherein the elongated tubular member comprises a tube having at least one cut or groove defined therein; and

a coil tip including stainless steel, the coil tip having a proximal end and a distal end, the coil tip extending over the distal portion of the inner core member and the tubular member;

the coil tip is located exterior of the elongated tubular member such that there exists in unoccupied space between the entire perimeter of the elongated tubular member and the coil tip;

wherein the proximal end of the coil tip is located proximal of the proximal end of the tubular member; and

the coil tip has an outside diameter, wherein the outside diameter of the coil tip is substantially equal to the diameter of the proximal portion of the core member configured to create a smooth transition from the core member to the coil tip.

23. (original) The guidewire of claim 22, wherein at least a portion of the intermediate portion and the distal portion of the core member includes stainless steel.

24. (original) The guidewire of claim 22, wherein the proximal portion of the core member has a diameter and the intermediate portion has a diameter less than the diameter of the proximal portion.

25. (cancelled)

26. (previously presented) The guidewire of claim 22, wherein the at least one cut or groove is a helical cut or groove defined along a length of the tubular member.

27-29. (cancelled)

30. (previously presented) The guidewire of claim 22, wherein the tubular member includes a plurality of cuts formed therein.